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503.30414V18

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): KATO, et al.  
Serial No.: 09/614,764  
Filed: July 12, 2000  
For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING  
METHOD THEREFOR  
Group: 3749  
Examiner: S. Gravini  
Allowed: October 13, 2000  
Batch No.: T69  
Attention: Sherry Brinkley  
Office of Petitions

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**PETITION TO WITHDRAW FROM ISSUE**  
**BASED ON 37 CFR 1.313(c)(2)**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box 313(b)  
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 9, 2001

Sir:

Applicants respectfully petition the Commissioner, under 37 CFR 1.313(a) and pursuant to 37 CFR 1.313(c)(2), to withdraw the above-identified application from issue, after payment of the Issue Fee on January 16, 2001. This petition is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination and necessary Submission, in order to have the Examiner consider the Submission filed concurrently herewith. In this concurrently filed Submission, independent claim 1, of the allowed claims of the above-identified application, has been amended to delete recitation that the cassette is receiving plural substrates in air, and to recite instead a cassette for receiving plural substrates at a position of

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which an upper region is open to a cassette transfer path.

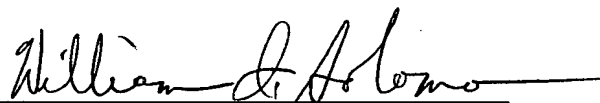
Also submitted with this Petition is the necessary fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i). See 37 CFR 1.313(a).

Granting of this Petition, and withdrawal of the above-identified application from issue, in due course, for consideration of the aforementioned Request for Continued Examination and of the aforementioned Submission, particularly in light of the document referred to in the Submission, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 503.30414V18) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



William I. Solomon  
Registration No. 28,565

1300 North Seventeenth Street  
Suite 1800  
Arlington, VA 22209  
Tel.: 703-312-6600  
Fax.: 703-312-6666

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